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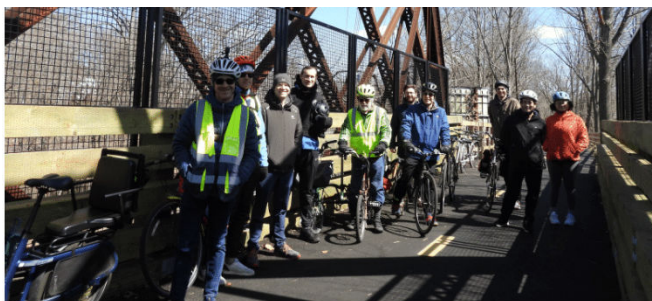
April 6, 2026



Hello, again. Descendants of Bell and Watson reconnect 150 years after the first call



Did you know? You can join a singing group. Weekly practices at the Senior Center



Biking across the Linden Street Bridge



Did you know? Free parking passes

The Waltham Times is Waltham's local news publication, currently available online only. This printed compendium of articles is produced by volunteers for readers who prefer hardcopy. We aim to have an official printed edition of The Waltham Times in the future, dependent of raising sufficient revenue through donations, grants and advertising to cover the cost of printing.



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Hello, again. Descendants of Bell and Watson reconnect 150 years after the first call

Andrew Law

April 5, 2026



A historic reunion as Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation celebrates the anniversary

“Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you!” Every school child knows these words spoken by Alexander Graham Bell in the world’s first successful telephone call to his assistant, Thomas Watson, in March of 1876. 150 years later, the two legendary inventors had a reunion of sorts when their descendants Sara Grosvenor and Robert Mellors met at Waltham’s Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation.

The museum celebrated the sesquicentennial of the telephone’s invention on the evening of March 27 and had arranged for Grosvenor, Bell’s great-granddaughter, and Mellors, Watson’s great-grandson to both attend. It was the first time they had met.

After initially shaking hands with Mellors, Grosvenor exclaimed, “I need a hug.” Mellors smiled, later adding, “Isn’t it so wonderful, 150 years later for the families to be part of the history?”

The event, led by Boston University’s Mehrotra Institute for Business, Markets & Society, drew more than 100 guests including students, faculty, telecommunications leaders and museum volunteers and staff. Waltham’s own legacy of innovation made the museum a fitting venue, and Bell had been a BU professor, inventing the telephone while on paid sabbatical.

Marcel Rindisbacher, faculty director of the Mehrotra Institute, set the tone upfront: “We’re marking 150 years since the patent of one of the most consequential inventions in history. It became a technology that reshaped communications, technology and society.”

The gathering celebrated how the telephone’s invention continues to have far-reaching impacts. Steve Guerriero, the Charles River Museum’s director of education, noted that the event’s focus aligned with the museum’s goals.

“Our mission is about how the past can inform the present and future,” he said. “History is a series of stories that helps us put that into perspective.”



Robert Mellors and Sara Grosvenor pose in front of museum dioramas that recreate Alexander Graham Bell's lab. Photo by Lain Orndorff, Charles River Museum.

The Family Behind the Inventor

Grosvenor, who serves as executive director of the Alexander and Mabel Bell Legacy Foundation, emphasized the importance of Bell's wife, Mabel, in both his personal and professional life. “She was the woman behind the throne,” said Grosvenor of her great-grandmother. “We joke that Bell wouldn't be anywhere without her.”

She also highlighted Bell's achievements beyond the telephone, from inventing a precursor to fiber optics technology, to helping fund National Geographic and advocating for the deaf community.

Bell's parents taught the deaf, his wife Mabel was hard of hearing and he met Helen Keller after receiving a letter from her father. “He wanted deaf people to participate fully in life,” said Grosvenor.

Asked what might surprise people about Bell, Grosvenor smiled. “He wouldn't have a phone in his office, it was too big a distraction.” She then shared a lighter anecdote: Bell enjoyed “swimming naked on his back smoking a cigar.”

Bell's love of nature was evident in his frequent family retreats to their Nova Scotia residence, a tradition his descendants continue today.

Bell's Trusted Partner

Grosvenor emphasized that the greatest innovations are rarely achieved alone. She quoted her great-grandfather Bell, who often credited his assistant Watson: “He took my ideas and turned it into reality.”

Mellors, Watson's great-grandson, attended the event with several family members. He described Watson as a “tinkerer,” whose skills first caught Bell's attention at an electronics business in Boston. “Bell was impressed by how good he was with his hands,” added Mellors.

At the time of the telephone's invention Bell was 29, while Watson was just 22. “He was the first to hear words over the telephone,” Mellors shared, adding there was urgency to Bell's historical call because he had just spilled battery acid.

Like Bell, Watson's talents extended far beyond the telephone. "He was a painter, he did a lot of other things," said Mellors. "He very much liked being an innovator."

After the telephone's invention, Watson went on to co-found (with Frank O. Wellington) the Fore River Shipyard, pioneering the construction of steel ships for the U.S. Navy. That business would eventually become part of Bethlehem Steel and, later, General Dynamics, an aerospace and defense company.

The Living Descendants

The event's sense of history was heightened by the presence of the Bell and Watson descendants. Kris May, executive director of the Mehrotra Institute, reached out to Grosvenor months earlier after finding her foundation online. Meanwhile, Guerriero of the Charles River Museum discovered Watson's descendants had local roots through a decade-old news article. After they were contacted about the event, the family agreed to participate.

As the celebration continued, Grosvenor and Mellors met with Guerriero at the museum's in-house display of Bell lab dioramas: miniaturized folk-art-styled recreations of the telephone's invention. The descendants exchanged stories and memories passed down through generations.

"It's incredible that the history is within living memories," reflected Guerriero.

The Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation is located at 154 Moody St., Waltham. Parking can be found at the public lot behind Embassy Theater at 42 Cooper St. Take a short walk across the footbridge next to the lot's lower level and follow signs to the museum. For more information, visit [the museum's website](#).



Mellors shows a black-and-white photograph of his great-grandfather Thomas Watson to Grosvenor. Photo by Lain Orndorff, Charles River Museum.

MBTA program helps seniors navigate transit system

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • APRIL 5, 2026



Representatives from the [MBTA Mobility Center](#) will be at the Stanley Senior Center on Wednesday, April 8, to explain in Spanish and English how to use MBTA resources to plan trips, get around safely, and take advantage of accessibility features.

The presentation will also cover available services to seniors for trips that might extend outside the MBTA service area.

MBTA staff will stay following the presentation to assist individuals who may qualify for the Senior Charlie Card or other reduced fare programs with their applications (government-issued photo ID with date of birth is required).

Spanish: 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

English: 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

There is no charge to attend. Call the Senior Center at 781-314-3499 to register.



Author



STEVE MILMORE

Steve Milmore has more than 35 years experience in corporate communications and public relations. He started his career as copy editor for Computerworld magazine and has held writing and management positions at leading high tech companies including Oracle, IBM, and Dun & Bradstreet. Steve is a long-time resident of Waltham.

Historical hedge maze replica project a surprise to Waltham community

BY CYD ABNET • COMMUNITY • APRIL 5, 2026



A replica of a hedge maze formerly located at Cornelia Warren’s Cedar Hill property is set to be installed this April at 240 Beaver St. While there have been rumors and brief discussion of a potential maze in the past, the project has not been mentioned in any recent public meetings.

According to Mayor Jeanette A. McCarthy, the maze project was discussed last year in a closed budget meeting with the Department of Public Works. The project is using leftover money from last year’s DPW budget, and all research and design work was done in-house by DPW employees.

Raised garden beds for community use are planned to be placed in front of and behind the maze. Currently, DPW is waiting on estimates for a ten-foot fence to keep deer from eating the hedges. The planting portion of the project is slated to start on April 15.

A maze with history

The original maze sat at the front of Cedar Hill, a property previously owned by the prominent Warren family. Famed philanthropist Cornelia Warren was the last person to reside at the property. Cedar Hill now serves as the headquarters of Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts and serves both as an archive and day camp center for the organization. Also located on the property is the Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill, which houses artifacts from both the Girl Scouts and the historical property.

The original hedge maze was itself a replica, designed after the maze at Hampton Court in England. While the maze would eventually bring hundreds of visitors, the project was not always beloved. According to Francine Edwards, co-founder of the Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill, Warren’s brothers thought the idea was a waste of time and money. Warren went ahead with the project anyway.

“People came from miles around to visit,” said Edwards of the maze. “Cornelia loved kids and wanted people to enjoy themselves.”

The maze was completed in 1896 and consisted of nearly 1,000 hedge shrubs that were five feet ten inches tall. Thousands visited the maze, with enough people getting lost in it to warrant building a wooden lookout tower from which one could spot wayward maze-goers to help guide them to the exit.

“Sixteen gardeners were employed full-time to take care of the maze,” said volunteer project manager for the museum Lynn Saunders Cutter. “That wasn’t sustainable when the property was turned over to the Girl Scouts.”



A period postcard showing Cornelia Warren’s hedge maze. A lookout tower had to be built so guides could instruct people who got lost in the maze on how to reach the exit.

The maze was removed in 1962 because the upkeep was too much. Girl scouts built a replica of the maze out of wood in 1998 to celebrate the organization’s 75th anniversary.

Attempts were made by the Girl Scouts to raise funds to recreate the maze, but ultimately the money was used to plant trees and shrubs in the area where the original maze stood. In the location of the former maze stands a patio of bricks or a ‘brick garden’ laid out in the same pattern as the maze. In exchange for a donation, people can engrave a brick with a message of their choosing. The original benches that surrounded a fountain that stood at the middle of the maze are positioned near the brick garden.

The brick garden was designed by a landscape architect who donated her time to the property and did extensive research in the archives to inform the design. The Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill did not recall any DPW employees coming to look at the original plans and pictures of the maze and were surprised that the project was happening, but are excited for the maze to come to fruition.

Potential for privet problems

The Waltham Times received an anonymous tip from a reader who was concerned about the species of plant chosen for the project and its propensity to spread. The maze will be planted using 650 *Ligustrum ovalifolium* shrubs, commonly known as Korean privet. This species of shrub is classified as a potentially invasive species in Connecticut and Maine.

In Massachusetts, *Ligustrum obtusifolium*, commonly known as border privet, is the only privet hedge species that is illegal to plant. However, all types of privet have been known to escape the zone where they are being intentionally cultivated.

“Even if there wasn’t a significant risk that the species chosen for this project might eventually start to proliferate into adjacent natural areas, opting to plant a single, non-native shrub species that won’t add any ecological value to the site is a major lost opportunity,” said Grow Native Massachusetts operations director Meredith Gallogly in an email to The Waltham Times.

Gallogly said that she hopes that the city will consider filling potential gaps in the hedge with native plants in the future.



Author



CYD ABNET

Cyd Abnet is a Waltham native who recently graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Clark University. She began her journalism career with Clark’s student newspaper where she covered topics from on-campus protests to competitive chess scandals. In her free time you can find Cyd enjoying Waltham’s numerous natural wonders.

The week ahead: Community Development grants and renaming Northeast School

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 5, 2026



This week, City Council's Economic and Community Development Commission plans to review a preliminary [Community Development Block Grant proposal](#) for the year.

The CDBG program, run by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Design, distributes grants to municipalities for local initiatives improving housing opportunities and quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents and for residents in vulnerable populations, such as survivors of domestic violence and people experiencing homelessness.

[Since January](#), the city has been receiving applications from nonprofits and city departments for CDBG funding for the upcoming year.

The [18 requests it has proposed to submit to the federal government](#) range from ESL, meal and afterschool programs; renovations for the Boys & Girls Club and home repair subsidies; and operating costs for the Community Day Center and the Housing and Planning departments.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy sent in the preliminary proposal to the council at its [last meeting in March](#), requesting it authorize her to submit these grant requests to HUD after public review.

The city will hold a public meeting to review the draft plan with the public on Thursday, April 9 at 10:00 am at the Arthur Clark Government Center.

Also this week, the council's Licenses and Franchises Commission will consider a plan to rename Northeast Elementary School after [former Waltham Public Schools superintendent John J. Daddona](#). The request comes from resident Margaret Cannon after Daddona's death in February at age 93.

City Council committees

In other business, the council's Licences and Franchises Committee will also discuss a sidewalk opening requested by utilities company Eversource, a secondhand dealer's licence and inspections for two lodging house license renewal requests.

The Ordinances and Rules Commission will consider [proposed changes for the city's snow removal ordinances](#) and three requests to extend time allotted for construction on previously granted special permits.

The Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee will consider a \$10.5 million loan authorization to fund project management of the ongoing police station redesign, and the Finance Committee will discuss funding requests for the police medical budget, disability services commission and telecommunicator emergency response services.

City Council's committees will meet on Monday beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The ZBA is a five-person board charged with reviewing new and existing buildings that might violate the city's [zoning code](#).

The board has the power to grant project-specific variances to the code, overrule judgments made by the building inspector and grant specific types of special permits.

This week it will hear two cases from private homeowners on Trapelo Road and Edwin Road, respectively, seeking to construct additions to their houses. Both additions will encroach into the houses' setbacks from the road, and one will increase the house's floor plan over what the city permits.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the Arthur Clark Government Center.

Parks-Recreation Board

The Parks-Recreation Board is an eight-person board that oversees the city's public recreational spaces and programming. This week, it plans to discuss a budget proposal for the department for fiscal year 2027, as well as a road race at the Community Day Center and presentations from Waltham Youth Hockey and Waltham Youth Football and Cheer.

It will meet on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Waltham Recreation Department at 510 Moody St.

School Committee

The Waltham School Committee, an elected six-member committee chaired by McCarthy, makes policy and oversight decisions for the Waltham Public Schools.

The committee this week will discuss new communications regarding out-of-district transportation and teacher salaries and discuss whether to participate in the state School Choice program. It will also discuss Valor High School, and it may continue discussions about the [Waltham High School schedule for the upcoming year](#).

The committee will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in the James J. Cannon Lecture Hall at 617 Lexington St.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is a volunteer board charged with overseeing environmental planning in Waltham. The commission reviews certain types of construction on or around wetlands to ensure they comply with the Wetlands Protection Act and the Department of Environmental Protection stormwater standards.

This week, among other business, the commission will discuss a request to construct an emergency generator, conduit, and dumpster at Atrius Health at 1601 Trapelo Road in a previously developed environmental buffer zone.

It will hold a meeting over Zoom at 7 p.m. Thursday. An agenda and link for the meeting will be provided on the [commission's page](#) on the city website at least 48 hours in advance.



Author



ARTIE KRONENFELD

Artie Kronenfeld is an Arlington and Waltham-based reporter who enjoys writing about policy and administration that affect people's everyday lives. Previously hailing from Toronto, they're a former editor-in-chief of the University of Toronto's flagship student paper The Varsity. You can find them during off-work hours playing niche RPGs, wandering through Haymarket and making extra spreadsheets that nobody asked for.

Hawks Sports Roundup

BY STEVE MILMORE • SPORTS & RECREATION • APRIL 5, 2026



Catch all the action with the Hawks! This week's schedule is packed with games and matchups across the field and court, giving fans plenty of chances to cheer them on.

Monday, April 6

- Girls Varsity Softball vs. Cambridge Public Schools, 4 p.m. (Bentley Field)
- Boys JV Baseball vs. Shrewsbury, 4 p.m. (Shrewsbury High School)
- Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Shrewsbury, 4:30 p.m. (Yetten Baseball Field)
- Boys JV "A" Baseball vs. Shrewsbury, 4:30 p.m. (Nipper Maher Field)
- Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Meuthen, 4:30 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Meuthen, 6 p.m. (WHS Field)



WHS pitcher Conor Gavin at a 2025 game. Photo by Liam O'Brien.

Tuesday, April 7

- Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Westford Academy, 4 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Westford Academy, 5:30 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Westford Academy, 4 p.m. (Westford Academy HS)
- Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Westford Academy, 5:45 p.m. (Westford Academy HS)
- Boys and Girls Varsity Track vs. Boston Latin, 4 p.m. (Leary Field)
- Boys Varsity Tennis vs. Framingham, 4 p.m. (Framingham HS)

Wednesday, April 8

- Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Westford Academy, 4 p.m. (Westford Academy HS)

- Boys JV “A” Baseball vs. Westford Academy, 4 p.m. (Robinson Elementary Field/Westford)
- Boys JV “B” Baseball vs. Westford Academy, 4 p.m. (Cacciatore Field)
- Boys Varsity Tennis vs. Westford Academy, 4 p.m. (Westford Academy HS)
- Girls Varsity Tennis vs. Westford Academy, 4 p.m. (Brandeis Courts)
- Girls Varsity Softball vs. Westford Academy, 4 p.m. (Bentley Field)
- Boys JV Volleyball vs. Essex Technical, 4:15 p.m. (Essex Technical HS)
- Boys JV Volleyball vs. Essex Technical, 5:30 p.m. (Essex Technical HS)

Thursday, April 9

- Girls Varsity Lacrosse, Acton Boxborough Regional, 4 p.m. (Acton Boxborough HS)
- Girls JV Lacrosse vs. Acton Boxborough Regional, 5:30 p.m. (WHS Field)
- Girls Varsity Softball vs. Wayland, 4:30 p.m. (Veterans Memorial Field)
- Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Acton Boxborough Regional, 4:30 p.m. (Acton Boxborough HS)
- Boys JV Lacrosse vs. Acton Boxborough Regional, 4:30 p.m. (Acton Boxborough HS)
- Boys JV Volleyball vs. Malden, 4 p.m. (WHS)
- Boys Varsity Volleyball vs. Malden, 5:30 p.m. (WHS)

Friday, April 10

- No games.

Author



STEVE MILMORE

Steve Milmore has more than 35 years experience in corporate communications and public relations. He started his career as copy editor for Computerworld magazine and has held writing and management positions at leading high tech companies including Oracle, IBM, and Dun & Bradstreet. Steve is a long-time resident of Waltham.

Bentley to host French team ahead of FIFA World Cup 2026

BY STEVE MILMORE • SPORTS & RECREATION • APRIL 5, 2026



Didier Deschamps, head coach of the French national football team, and Bentley President E. LaBrent Chrite. Photo courtesy of Bentley University.

The French national team is bringing a taste of World Cup soccer to the Bentley campus.

The university will serve as base camp for the French team L'Équipe de France de Football while it competes in the 2026 FIFA World Cup in June, providing turf to practice on, training facilities and meeting spaces.

The international soccer tournament, the most widely viewed sporting event in the world, kicks off on June 11 and will include seven matches at Gillette Stadium. A record-number 48 national teams will compete at 16 venues across the U.S., Canada and Mexico over a five-week period.

“The decision positions Bentley and the city of Waltham on the global sports stage as one of the world’s most celebrated soccer teams prepares for the tournament,” Bentley said in a statement.

The French Football Federation selected Bentley based on its top athletic fields, modern work-out facilities in Bentley Arena and proximity to Foxborough.

The French team — known as “Les Bleus” for the color of their jerseys — is one of the top teams in this year’s FIFA World Cup. While they will practice and prepare at Bentley this summer, the French footballers will reside in Boston at the Four Seasons Hotel.



The French national team will practice at Bentley to prep for the World Cup. Photo courtesy of Bentley University.



STEVE MILMORE

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Potter Place inspires confidence, purpose for people with mental health conditions

BY ELIZABETH MEHLER • HEALTH & LIFESTYLE • APRIL 5, 2026



Ruth Torres, 55, has been showing up to [Potter Place Clubhouse](#) in Waltham four days a week for nearly three decades — not just to pass the time, but to build new skills, from math to French, with the help of staff who guide her progress.

“I decided to come to the clubhouse to find a job, to work dependably by myself, to help my family,” she said.

Community unit coordinator Menucha Krinsky began teaching Torres skills when Krinsky first met her as an intern. They began doing puzzles together, and eventually she introduced her to educational French and math videos on YouTube.

While most mental health services offer a clinical space for therapy, Potter Place Clubhouse on Vernon Street offers a warm, welcoming space where members like Torres can build confidence and find a sense of community.



“Everything we do is done side by side for the overall mission of supporting members in recovery from mental illness,” said Michael Nderitu, assistant director of Potter Place Clubhouse. “Our

model is recovery through work.”

Regaining a sense of purpose

Since 1988, Waltham’s Potter Place Clubhouse has emphasized pre-vocational, vocational and social experiences to support people with mental illness

The program is based on the international clubhouse model, which designs mental health treatment based on helping members regain a sense of self purpose and vocational confidence to be productive in society.

Potter Place has 100 members in Waltham. Its motto states “Once a member, always a member,” Nderitu said.

About 20 members with a diagnosed mental health condition come to the clubhouse daily for services, which are funded by the Department of Mental Health.

A pillar of the clubhouse’s model is its Transitional Employment Program, which helps members find short-term employment for six to nine months with local businesses, including the Waltham Chamber of Commerce, Brandeis University, More Than Words bookstore and Common Good coffee shop.



The goal is to find jobs that best suit members' interests, Nderitu said. Members typically get janitorial, clerical or food services work. "[This is] meant to build them up, get them used to working again, so that hopefully, ideally, the next step is moving on to a part-time or full-time position," Nderitu said.

Peter DuBois, a 65-year-old Belmont resident, has been a member of Potter Place for 30 years and said he prefers the clubhouse model over group therapy.

"We help people regain the confidence that they need to go about their life to reenter the workforce, get back to school, or just be part of a community," Nderitu said.

Building confidence and community

Molyna Richards, executive director of Waltham Chamber of Commerce, hailed the clubhouse hiring program as good for the members and the larger community.

"We tell people how remarkable it is and the benefits of hiring from Potter Place," she said.

She added, "They do little things, and that gives them the confidence of being back in the workplace. They get to meet other business professionals, and they can network that way, which is really helpful."

Potter Place offers more than just employment opportunities. It holds socials every Saturday, planned and decided by members themselves, and is even open on holidays.

"[For many members] this is the common ground, this is how we connect," she said. "This is going to be our place, which puts a lot of reliance on this place being here."

This story is part of a partnership between The Waltham Times and the Boston University Department of Journalism's Newsroom program.



ELIZABETH MEHLER

Elizabeth Mehler is a sophomore at Boston University studying journalism and political science. She currently serves as city co-editor for Boston University's independent student newspaper, The Daily Free Press. As a student journalist reporting in both Boston and Waltham, she strives to produce meaningful, community-centered news coverage that highlights individuals unique stories.

Centre Street Food Pantry marks 15 years; eyes Waltham home

BY BETTY BARRER • COMMUNITY • APRIL 2, 2026

This year, the Centre Street Food Pantry is commemorating 15 years of supplying food and other essentials to people in need from six MetroWest communities. While the pantry is based in Newton, more than 50% of its clients live in Waltham.

At a celebration on March 19 at Wellesley's Papa Razzi that was sponsored by Newport Restaurant Group, volunteers and local officials mingled, chatted and learned about the pantry's reach. Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy attended with a proclamation of support from the city. "The pantry does very good work," she said.



Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy at the celebration, flanked by pantry executive director Rose Saia and Andy Levine, board member. Photo by Andrew Child.

The pantry is open Tuesdays and occasional Saturdays. Clients can visit once a month. Aside from Waltham, the other communities covered by the pantry are Brookline, Needham, Newton, Watertown and Wellesley.

In 2025, 1,100 families relied on the pantry each month for a total of over 51,000 people served and 990,000 pounds of food delivered. This amounted to 66,000 grocery bags filled with produce, protein, dairy, groceries and personal care items. Accomplishing this work involved four staff members, 250 volunteers and 1,800 donors.

The pantry started in 2014 using basement space donated by Trinity Parish in Newton Centre through the initiative of the Rev. Todd Miller. Margaret Hummel, one of the first volunteers, remembered the pantry's humble beginnings. "The very first day it opened, I was there with [pantry manager] Amy McGregor-Radin. We sat at the Trinity downstairs and wondered if anyone would show up," she said. But 11 people did arrive that first day. By the end of 2019, the pantry served about 300 households every month.

As with much else in life, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 disrupted the pantry's activities. It switched to an outdoor delivery model, and the monthly number of clients jumped to about 600. Ongoing food insecurity in the region meant that the numbers continued to grow. One in three children in Massachusetts faces food insecurity, according to the pantry's executive director Rose Saia.

Hoping to secure space in Waltham

The Pantry has several connections to the Waltham community, including supplying groceries to the Brandeis Food Bank. In 2025, it held a pop-up food distribution with Healthy Waltham. The pantry has been "in constant collaboration with Healthy Waltham," said Taylor Lies, president of the pantry's board. "There's enough need for all of us [nonprofit organizations]."

Lies, who has been board president for four years and a volunteer for seven, saw his role as "shepherding away from COVID." He named three goals: to maximize capacity at the pantry's current location, to grow partnerships with corporations and nonprofits and to secure 5,000 square feet of space in Waltham to accommodate more clients. "We'd welcome conversations about any leads," he said.

Recent innovations included an appointment model to reduce waiting time, special hours for seniors and a kit of cake mix, frosting, sprinkles and candles to help families celebrate their children's birthdays.

"We're all about food, but kindness is part of our mission," Saia said.

The Federal closes

BY NEWSROOM • FOOD • APRIL 2, 2026



The Federal, the upscale seafood and steak restaurant at 74 Tower Road, has closed. According to an announcement on [its website](#), “Unfortunately we have made the difficult decision to close the restaurant permanently. The current economy and ever increasing costs make it impossible to continue.”

The restaurant opened seven years ago and managed to get through the pandemic. “We will continue operating our sister property, Stazione di Federal and will honor all outstanding gift cards there,” the website stated.



The Federal restaurant on Tower Road has closed. Google Street View.

New coach, fresh start for Waltham High School softball

BY LIAM O'BRIEN • SPORTS & RECREATION • APRIL 3, 2026



The Hawks enter the season with a fresh leader at the helm as Stephen McGovern takes over after 18 years of experience with Waltham girls softball. The veteran coach was the president of the youth system in addition to coaching stints in the middle school ranks at the Hanscom School and in the high school realm with the Cambridge Matignon School and Saint Joseph Preparatory High School.

“It’s a brand new team for me,” McGovern said. “First-year coach with a young team. We are just focused on building confidence.”

The team has a few reliable stalwarts who will assist in building that positivity. Standout junior pitcher and Dual County League honoree Josie Proskoczilo will serve as the ace at the head of the rotation, looking to be an imposing force whenever she takes the mound. The team will also be boosted by a pair of promising freshmen, Ava Palao and Sofia Carbone.

Palao begins her high school career with high potential as a pitcher with the ability to play centerfield and shortstop. Carbone will look to provide a jolt to the batting order and shore up the defense at third base.

“The schedule is looking manageable,” McGovern said. “We are playing our conference competitors one time apiece and we have some out of conference opponents as well.”

WHS kicked off its season with a high-scoring affair against Winchester High School, falling 16–13 in a hard-fought battle that was called after five innings for inclement weather. Despite the rainy and cold setting, Proskoczilo pitched four strong innings while eighth-grader Frannie Letendre worked the fifth inning. The Hawks notched four runs in the first inning and forced the opposition to utilize four different pitchers.

“Very proud of my team,” McGovern said. “My players were ready for another comeback and were very disappointed it was called for rain. The conditions were rough on both teams.”

McGovern is excited about the manner in which the squad has prepared in the preseason and is eager to get the 2026 campaign going.

Discussion on Fir Avenue repaving continued for second time

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 2, 2026



The Board of Survey and Planning continued discussion of the repaving of Fir Avenue during their Wednesday meeting. The [initial discussion](#), which took place in Dec. 2025, was continued to April to give time for concerns from the board and neighbors to be addressed through alterations to the plan and a site walk.

According to developer Curtis Beaton and his legal representation Phillip McCourt, an independent engineering report on the project and a letter from a lawyer representing an abutter were presented to them immediately before the meeting. Since there was no time to read and respond to the material, McCourt requested the case be continued to a later date.

The board voted to continue the meeting to allow for the city engineering and law departments to comment on the documents, but allowed the public hearing for the case to continue as so many residents had shown up to speak. The board did not close the public hearing, which will allow for more public comment on the project in the future.

Abutters share concerns regarding project legality, drainage and road width

Five abutters and one legal representative shared concerns during the public comment portion of the meeting. Three main themes, the legality of the project, potential lack of stormwater drainage and the widening of the road encroaching on property, emerged as concerns for residents.

Abutter Austin Mitchell of 59 Piedmont Ave. spoke neutrally about the project, saying that as long as stormwater run-off, snow removal and road width concerns were addressed, he had no problem with the project.

Board chairman William Creonte assured Mitchell that there was no way the drainage issue would be neglected.

“I am a hound with drainage,” Creonte said, referencing his own struggles with his business flooding as evidence for how seriously he takes the issue.

Board member S. Anthony DeVito echoed Creonte’s sentiment. “Drainage is one of our biggest topics,” he said.

Sue Hildreth of 11 Fir Ave. echoed Mitchell’s concerns about stormwater run-off, adding that she didn’t believe that the developer had the legal right to reconstruct the private way. Hildreth had additional concerns about the soil and rock being excavated or even blasted through during construction, which could increase noise levels in the area and have negative effects on the structural integrity of houses in the area.

Creonte responded, saying that there would be assessments done by contractors if the project was approved that would address those concerns to make sure that there was no structural damage.

Hildreth’s husband, Dimitry Zarkh, spoke at the meeting as well, stating that the project would “take deeded land from abutters with no due process” and would “change the character of the neighborhood.” He said he did not want Beaton to straighten the road when he repaved it, as it would encroach on property lines. Creonte told Zarkh that the road would be configured as per the city atlas. “However it was designed is how it’s going to be,” he said.

Michael O’Neil, a lawyer representing both Hildreth and Zarkh, argued that since the road is a private way, abutters own the land extending from their property to the midpoint of the road. Creonte said that his understanding was that abutters only own the private way if they pay taxes on the actual land. O’Neil was unable to verify if abutters were paying taxes on the roadway with the information he had at the meeting. Creonte said he hoped the city law department would be able to assert whether or not abutters own the road.

Ward 2 Councilor Caren Dunn made a brief comment, wondering if building permits had been secured before construction on the road began. Beaton said that building permits had not been secured, but he had received opinions that said that the three lots he owned were buildable.

Pat Seminara of 61 Mount Walley Road said that she was most concerned about how her property would be protected from construction. Creonte informed her that was a question for the building department and thanked her for attending and sharing her concerns.

The board did not share a date for the next discussion of the case.

10 Brandeis grad students distill years of research down to 3 minutes

Photos by Gaelen Morse

With just three minutes and a single slide, 10 Brandeis University graduate students transformed years of research into bite-sized stories, hoping to captivate an audience and win cash prizes at the 5th Annual Three-Minute Thesis competition. The event took place last Friday, March 27, at the university's Spingold Theater.

The contest required the participants to explain their work concisely, in non-technical terms. For students steeped in the language and intricacies of their fields, the challenge was considerable.

"Graduate students' research is often hundreds of pages long in its completed form and has many nuances, so distilling it down to three minutes is a big challenge," said Abigail Arnold, assistant director for graduate academic affairs and one of the organizers of the competition.

"But participating in the competition gives them the opportunity to practice the important skill of conveying their work to a general audience quickly, which can help them greatly in interview and networking situations across a range of fields," she added.

A panel of judges, including Waltham Mayor Jeannette McCarthy, awarded Arjun Kumar Singh first place, followed by Cali McKenzie in second place and Dagny Michaels in third. Members of the audience were invited to vote for their favorite, the People's Choice Award, and that honor went to Mike Vivian.

Singh will participate in a regional competition, to be held virtually on April 22, and potentially a national one as well.

All 10 participants will receive cash awards ranging from \$300 to \$1,000.

Other members of the organizing team are: Marika McCann, associate director of professional development and employer outreach in the Office of Graduate Affairs; Becky Prigge, vice provost for Student Affairs; Anahita Zare, director of Education and Special Programs at the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center and director of the Sci Comm Lab; and Atiqua Prithu, Marketing and Communications student assistant.



Winners of the Three-Minute Thesis Competition at Brandeis University are (from left to right) Mike Vivian, the People's Choice Award; Arjun Kumar Singh, first place; Cali McKenzie, second place; and Dagny Michaels, third place. Photo credit: Gaelen Morse.

Free meals paused at Waltham Library due to funding cut

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • APRIL 2, 2026



The Waltham Boys & Girls Club has suspended its free food program at the Waltham Library due to a lack of funding.

In an email to the Waltham Times, the WBGC stated:

“Unfortunately, the funding provided to the Waltham Boys and Girls Club to support meal service at the library has been eliminated. Without this funding, we must temporarily pause meals at the library...We are actively working to identify funding solutions to reinstate the program as soon as possible.”



Waltham Public Library

During the school year, the WBGS free meal service had been funded under the Child and Adult Care Food Program, a federal program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Those funds have now been eliminated.

The club is looking to secure private funding to operate the program at the library for the rest of the school year. For those who would like to support this effort, donations can be made at <https://walthambgc.org/donate>.

Meals will resume at the library at the end of June through the club’s [Summer Eats](#) service, which is funded by a separate USDA Summer Food Service Program. When school cafeterias close, children who rely on school meals will still have access to food.

The WBGS stated: We remain deeply committed to addressing food insecurity in Waltham and to restoring this [library meal] service sustainably.

Court report: Uber driver pleads not guilty on two counts of assault and battery

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • APRIL 2, 2026



Kevin Hoang, 61, of Woburn, pleaded not guilty on March 30 to two counts of indecent assault and battery on a person 14 or over.

On the evening of March 28, officers responded to reports of an assault on Moody Street. According to the police report, two women were in an Uber en route to Asia Wok. In the report, the women are identified as Victim 1 and Victim 2 per request of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. During the drive, their Uber driver, identified as Hoang, reached into the backseat and grabbed Victim 1's right breast. Victim 2 demanded that Hoang let them out of the car immediately.

As she was exiting the car, Victim 2 reported that Hoang grabbed her thigh and squeezed it. In their rush to leave, both women left their purses in the car. They reported that Hoang asked them if they were OK, but sped off when he heard police sirens.

Police were able to get in contact with Hoang by phone. Hoang alleged that he had to let the women out of the car early because they kept changing the drop-off location. He said that he had asked them to exit the vehicle and cancel the ride, but eventually agreed to complete the ride if the women paid him in cash. Hoang said he was reaching in the back seat to grab the cash but they were refusing to pay him. Only one of the purses left in the car was recovered.

During his arraignment on March 30, Hoang pleaded guilty to two counts of indecent assault and battery on a person 14 or over. Judge Ellen M. Caulo released Hoang on personal recognizance. His pre-trial hearing is set for April 23.



Waltham District Court. Photo by Isabella Lapriore.

Additional court actions

Benjamin Bawa, 40, of Lowell, pleaded not guilty on March 25 to possessing a Class A drug. Caulo released him on personal recognizance and his pre-trial hearing is set for May 7.

Michael E. Griffin, 39, of Ayer, pleaded not guilty on March 30 to operating under the influence of liquor second offense and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. He is being held on \$750 cash bail and has a pre-trial hearing set for May 27.

Meghan E. Drury, 40, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on March 30 to one count of assault and battery on a family or household member and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon. According to the police report, Drury is M. Griffin's girlfriend and assaulted him during an argument while they were driving. She threw a beer can at him and punched him several times in the head. Drury was released on personal recognizance by Caulo and has a pre-trial hearing set for May 27.

Edward H. Griffin III, 35, of Ayer, pleaded not guilty on March 30 to four counts of assault and battery on a police officer and one count of possession of a class C drug subsequent offense. These charges came about when he arrived at the Waltham Police Department to bail out his brother. Since he was intoxicated at the time, officers explained they couldn't release M. Griffin into his custody. According to the police report, E. Griffin displayed aggressive behavior that escalated as police took him into custody. He was released on personal recognizance by Caulo and has a pre-trial hearing set for May 27.

All information for this story was gathered from court proceedings and official court documents at Waltham District Court and case information from [masscourts.org](https://www.masscourts.org).

Reagle's spring and summer workshops bring young stars to stage

BY STEVE MILMORE • ARTS & CULTURE • APRIL 2, 2026



The Waltham Reagle Music Theatre is inviting elementary through high school students to explore the magic of theater at its annual spring and summer workshops.

Participants will enjoy hands-on experiences in acting, singing and dance, led by professional artists and educators. Each workshop culminates in a live stage performance, giving students the chance to showcase their work with family, friends and the community.

The Spring Workshop on April 20-24 will be led by Broadway actor and Waltham native Mikey Graceffa, who just finished a two-year run in "Death Becomes Me." His acting and national tour credentials include Broadway tours of "Aladdin," "Matilda," "The Last Word" and "Catch Me If You Can."

Graceffa was a member of Waltham High School's class of 2009 and acted in lead roles in school plays. He graduated from Vassar College in 2014. He's also performed with the Reagle Players.

Students will have a one-week musical theatre experience with Reagle's staff of theatre educators, concluding in a final stage performance.

April 20-24, 2026 | 9:00am-3:00pm
617 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA

Students will receive a one week musical theatre intensive with our qualified, outgoing and professional staff of theatre educators. The one week program will conclude with a showcase production highlighting **student performance**.

We welcome masterclass instructor, Broadway guest and Waltham's own **Mikey Graceffa** right off his two year run with **Death Becomes Her**.

Broadway and National Tour credits include: *The Cher Show*, *Aladdin*, *Matilda*, *Matilda*, and *Catch Me If You Can*.

The Spring Workshop is led by Broadway actor and Waltham native Mikey Graceffa. Image courtesy of Waltham Reagle Theatre.

The Summer Intensive program on July 6-31 is for students seeking a deeper dive, offering immersive training in scene work, solo and ensemble singing, choreography and professional-style rehearsal.

This four-week program includes daily music, acting and dance classes, weekly Broadway class guests and rehearsals for a full-scale production of a junior musical.

Both workshops provide a supportive environment where young performers can shine on stage. [Registration](#) for the workshops is now open. Families can find more program details and tuition information on the Reagle Music Theatre [website](#).



The Summer Intensive Program runs July 6-31. Image courtesy of Reagle Theatre.

Town hall on Flock cameras and Waltham Common event time limit draws passionate community voices

BY LEA ZAHARONI • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 2, 2026



Residents packed Government Center on March 31 for a town hall organized by City Councilor-at-Large Colleen Bradley-MacArthur to discuss the recent installation of Flock Safety cameras throughout the city and Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy's recent [administrative order](#) setting a four-hour time limit for events held on Waltham Common.

Several community members gave short presentations before the public forum began, including a Waltham High School freshman named Joshua Guerrero who started a [petition](#) against the Mayor's new time limit. Joshua specifically spoke about the impact the time limit will have on the Watch City Steampunk Festival, whose organizers have [publicly stated](#) that the Mayor's order will have a negative effect on their event. "Let's not put time constraints on the common and keep Waltham fun," Joshua said.

The crowd also heard a presentation with an accompanying slideshow from Jake, who has lived in Waltham for 11 years and shared his concerns about privacy since the Flock cameras were installed in June 2025. Referring to the information that Flock cameras will collect on residents, he said, "You used to need a warrant for that information, but now you can outsource it to a tech bro."

Another speaker, Christine Willis, discussed the character of Flock Safety, the company that manufactures the cameras. "The police department has signed [an agreement](#) with Flock, but Flock is in control... Flock does not care to follow policies and they can and will break them," she said.

More than 20 residents spoke to criticize Flock in the public input section of the event. Another petition was organized by concerned citizens, which asked for the Waltham Police Department's contract with Flock to be dissolved and the cameras removed. Some speakers called for the cameras to be covered up immediately while the city figures out how to regulate them.

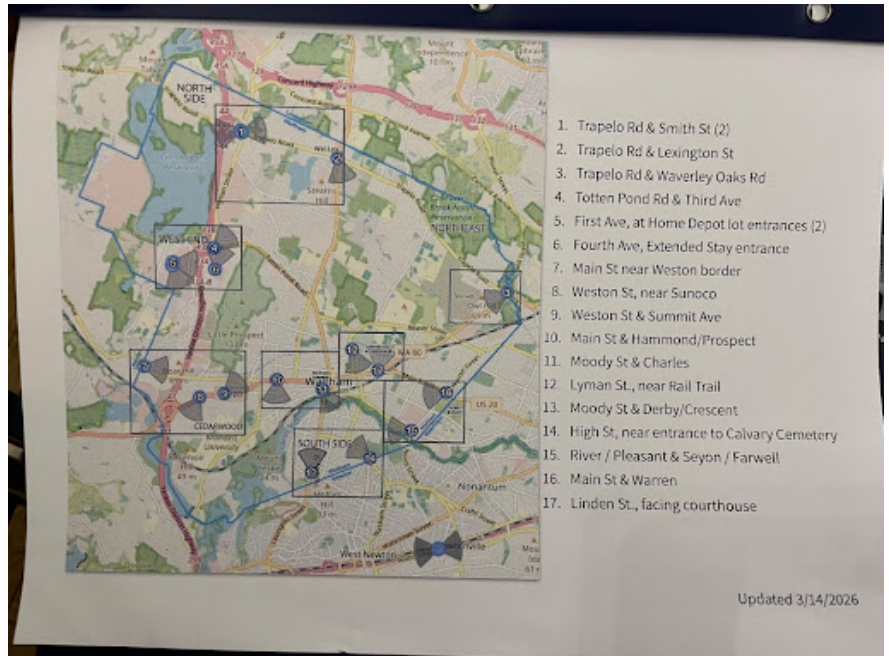
Speakers also questioned the City Council's allowing the contract in the first place. One Angleside resident questioned how the police department was able to sign such a contract without review and pay the \$48,000 price tag for the cameras without going through the city budget. "I really feel the council is falling down on the job here," he said.

Jonathan Paz, a former city councilor and former employee of Flock, echoed the man's sentiments. "This is very disrespectful that [the Mayor] completely bypassed the public procurement process... That says a lot more about them and what they think about you," he said.

Clarifying the council's actions

City councilors Cathyann Harris, Bill Hanley, Randy LeBlanc and Emma Tzioumas attended the event. Bradley-MacArthur and Harris spoke at several points to provide clarification and updates on the legislative review of the cameras.

Both confirmed that the Flock discussion was currently tabled. Additionally, although the city's Law Department reviewed the contract when it was first signed, Chief of Police Kevin O'Connell has been invited to the next Committee of the Whole meeting on April 6 to discuss possible policy changes going forward.



A map of Flock Security camera locations in Waltham, shared at the Town Hall on March 31, 2026. Photo by Lea Zaharoni.

Harris stated that the council does not have the authority to completely dissolve the contract per residents' request. "We can't do anything about it... it's a two-year contract," she said. Bradley-MacArthur also confirmed that the funding for the cameras had come from asset forfeiture monies, as opposed to the city budget. Massachusetts state laws [stipulate](#) that "All such moneys and proceeds received by any police department [as a result of asset forfeiture] ... shall be expended without further appropriation ... to provide additional technical equipment or expertise." Departments can use these funds without approval from the Council.

The councilors also said they found out the cameras had been put up from social media because the contract had been "done all through the police department," Harris said.

Millis and several of her fellow speakers had prepared a folder of materials to be passed around the room, which included a map with locations of all the Flock cameras currently being used. It also contained a copy of City Solicitor Katherine D. Laughman's [recommendations](#) for a possible new ordinance on surveillance regulations.

Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan had [initially asked](#) the Law Department to draft the ordinance, and Laughman’s analysis ultimately recommended “adopting an advisory resolution or internal policy statement expressing its expectations... A non-binding resolution would allow the Council to articulate policy values... without creating separation-of-powers concerns, procurement conflicts, or preemption risks.”

Laughman’s analysis is part of the Ordinances and Rules Committee review phase of any new binding ordinance. After receiving input from the Law Department, Logan [requested](#) that the matter be tabled so that the councilors could further review the analysis.

Common decision stokes concerns over top-down government

A smaller number of residents spoke during the public input section about the issue of the Waltham Common event time limit, with opinion skewed similarly critical of city government. One resident of eight years said that as a history teacher, she had taught her students about the bad omen of unilateral decisions by governments.

“I think this is very clearly targeted at us coming together to protest and hold vigils. I am very suspicious about whether this was in response to noise complaints... when we called the mayor to talk about it, we were shut down pretty quickly,” she said.

Waltham’s city charter is a [Plan B type](#), also known as a “[strong mayor](#)” system. Diana Young, a resident for 30 years and a member of the League of Women Voters, spoke about the charter and the power it grants the mayor. “Resolutions are nice but they have no binding power on the mayor... Our charter has been in place since 1986 and it could use a refresh. Do we want the mayor to have so much power?” she posed to the crowd. Several other speakers brought up the possibility of democratically changing the structure of Waltham’s government and implored their neighbors to vote in local elections.

Melissa Honig, Lead Organizer of the Steampunk Festival [since 2017](#), also spoke during the public input section, introducing herself to loud applause from the audience. Because the festival is a [part of](#) the Downtown Waltham Partnership and [supported partly by a grant](#) from the Waltham Cultural Council, Honig said that there were no plans in place to move out of Waltham in 2027.

As for this year’s festival, which will be held on May 9 in begrudging accordance with the time limit, she said, “We didn’t have time to pivot anywhere else. We are wanting to stay, and we want a solution... but this isn’t what we want to see for the future of our event.”

Another black bear sighting in north Waltham

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • AROUND TOWN • APRIL 2, 2026



A home security camera captured a bear walking through a residential area off Trapelo Road on the night of March 31.

Similar sightings have been reported across the city in recent weeks, including footage of a bear approaching a home and investigating items on a porch.

City officials have acknowledged reports of the bear in the area. Wildlife experts say black bears are becoming more common in eastern Massachusetts and often enter neighborhoods while searching for food sources such as trash, bird feeders or pet food.

Residents are advised to secure garbage, remove food attractants and keep a safe distance if a bear is seen.



Residents raise concerns about prospective Waltham Watch Factory housing project

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • APRIL 2, 2026



A public hearing for a prospective Waltham Watch Factory housing project drew a large crowd during Tuesday's Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Representatives for the project presented their material to the board, followed by a public input hearing.

Watch City Ventures LLC, which developed the existing Watch Factory Lofts, is behind this new development. The proposed complex consists of 140 luxury apartment units built across what developers call "underutilized parking lots" on Crescent Street. The developers are seeking relief from city zoning restrictions to construct the project.

Michael Connors of Connors & Connors LLP told the ZBA that the firm's client, Watch City Ventures LLC and its parent company, Berkeley Investments Inc., believed they'd face significant financial hardship if they were not granted the zoning relief.

Connors presented a timeline of the project which included two voluntary community input meetings, parking and traffic studies and sign-offs from four city boards and commissions.

Young K. Park, the president of Berkeley Investments, and Esther Chung Byun, the director of development of Berkeley Investments, spoke briefly about how they believed the project would revitalize and add vibrance to the area.

The companies are requesting relief from 15 specific zoning rules regarding parking, building height and setback of the building from both the Charles River and from Crescent Street. The companies are also seeking to override zoning regulations that forbid commercial and residential spaces from coexisting on the site.

While public hearings usually have separate portions for those opposing or speaking in favor of the petition, residents spoke interchangeably as the meeting went on. Ten or more residents said they are concerned about how the project will reduce parking and increase traffic in the area.

Gerard Butler, an attorney representing abutter Greg LeBlanc, said that he believed that the traffic and parking situations would be worse than predicted in the studies. He also added that he felt the

amount of relief the project was seeking was more than should be allowed.

Three residents expressed support for the project, citing the use of an empty lot for housing as a positive for Waltham's housing crisis.

Affordable housing donation raises alarms

Another concern voiced by residents was over the developer's response to the city's affordable housing legislature.

The developers are making a \$4.2 million payment in lieu of adding affordable housing units to the complex. Waltham's zoning code currently allows for developers to either make 20% of the housing units within their development affordable housing or donate money to the city's Affordable Housing Trust. While it is ultimately City Council's decision whether or not the payment is sufficient in exchange for not including affordable housing, board clerk Matthew Deveaux felt that the payment was indicative of the project being a money grab. LeBlanc, who attended the meeting alongside his counsel and spoke independently, thought the donation was immoral and just a way for the developers to make more money.

"What he's proposing with all these smoke and mirrors is not the way you go about it," said LeBlanc, addressing Park.

Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris said that while the project in her ward did show promise, the developers needed to work with neighbors to address concerns they raised at the meeting.

Board chair John Sergi suggested the developer host another community input meeting as well as perform a third-party review of the project. The board voted to continue the hearing until April 30 at request of the petitioner.

In other action, the board:

- Approved a request for frontage and side yard setback relief from Carl Cincotta, who plans to build a two-family home on his property at 72-74 South St.
- Voted to close a public input hearing regarding a proposed housing complex at 455 Totten Pond Road. The proposed complex plans to include 79 affordable housing units alongside 236 standard priced units. The board will meet on April 14 to vote on whether the project falls under the 40B statute, which allows for developers of affordable housing projects to receive relief from certain aspects of local zoning code.

Did you know? You can join a singing group. Weekly practices at the Senior Center

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • APRIL 2, 2026



The Watch City Singers will meet every Thursday at 1:00 pm, starting April 2 and ending with a concert on May 28. Led by Mary Cunningham of the Powers Music School. No singing experience is required. Rehearsal sessions are 90 minutes. Call 781-314-3499 to register.



The Watch City Singers.

There are so many benefits to singing. One is that it releases endorphins – the ‘happy’ chemicals that boost your mood and make you feel good about yourself. We all deserve this!

Waltham moves to secure control of Veterans Memorial Skating Rink

BY STEVE MILMORE • GOVERNMENT • MARCH 31, 2026



State Representative Thomas Stanley of Waltham announced he has filed legislation to protect the long-term recreational use of the [Veterans Memorial Skating Rink](#) at 295 Totten Pond Road.

Working with Middlesex District Representative John Lawn and Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, Stanley petitioned the State House on March 23. [House Bill H5315](#) would give the City of Waltham a right of first refusal for an upcoming 30-year lease renewal with the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance.

When the current lease expires, Waltham would get the first chance to take over the lease before anyone else, such as a private or outside entity.

The Waltham Veterans Memorial Skating Rink has been a fixture in the community for more than two decades. It's a state-owned facility under the Department of Conservation and Recreation and has served as the primary location for Waltham High School Hockey, Waltham Youth Hockey and public skating.

The bill has been referred to the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight for review.

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Waltham Times

‘I’m Alive’: Local man shares his liver transplant journey at Waltham ceremony today

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • HEALTH & LIFESTYLE • MARCH 31, 2026



When Craig Weiner got a call from his doctor 18 years ago, he was surprised to hear his liver enzymes were off. Some months later, specialists at Mt. Auburn Hospital diagnosed him with fatty liver disease, or cirrhosis. Not one to consume much alcohol, he stopped drinking. No one could explain the cause, and for the next dozen years, he felt fine even though the disease kept progressing silently.

Then in July 2022, doctors at Beth Israel Deaconess said they were putting him on a list to receive a liver transplant. He still felt fine when he got a call before Thanksgiving to come in for surgery. After getting prepped, he learned the donor liver was not suitable. A few months later, another call came. Another rush to the hospital. Another unsuitable liver. Soon, Weiner started to feel ill. He would sometimes feel foggy or even pass out.

Around Memorial Day in 2023, he finally received a transplant, but his body rejected the organ. “I made my funeral arrangements,” he recalled. For the next several months, he seesawed, kept alive by blood transfusions and frequent emergency visits to the hospital. “By late September, I had given up,” Weiner said. “Then in October, the call came. A liver was on its way from Wisconsin.”

When Weiner woke up after receiving the transplant, his surgeon asked him how he was feeling. Weiner had tubes down his throat and couldn’t speak. Instead, he wrote, “I’m alive.” Now 60 years old, with two adult sons, the Belmont resident is grateful to “have my life back.”

Later, he wrote to the family of the man who had donated the liver. He was 62, he learned, and had died driving his motorcycle. “His wife said he died doing what he loved,” Weiner said. “She’s so happy I’m alive” because of his gift.

Sharing his story today at City Hall

Weiner had told no one outside of his family about his health condition until the first transplant attempt. But now he feels compelled to share his experience. “I went from never talking to anyone

about it to telling everyone about it,” he said.

He will share his personal story on April 1 at 11 a.m. in front of Waltham City Hall, joining city and state officials alongside advocates from New



Craig Weiner, second from right, with his wife and two sons. Courtesy photo.

England Donor Services to raise a banner honoring donor families and recipients and to mark the start of National Donate Life Month.

Mayor Jeannette McCarthy and state Sen. Mike Barrett will take part in the ceremony, along with city councilors, representatives from the state Department of Public Health and Registry of Motor Vehicles and members of the donor community.

The banner raising is the first in a series of New England Donor Services events planned across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut to promote organ and tissue donation.

Waltham-based New England Donor Services reported a record number of transplants in 2025, coordinating donations from 640 deceased donors that resulted in 1,692 transplants. That marks the fifth consecutive year of growth for the organization, which is now among the top three organ procurement organizations in the country by donor and transplant volume.

“I’ve always signed up to be an organ donor,” Weiner said. “To be able to give someone an organ so they can keep on going – going from a tragedy to giving someone life, that’s a gift. It can’t be topped. Without four people donating their livers, I wouldn’t be here today.”

The Waltham event will take place on April 1 at 11 a.m. at City Hall, 610 Main St. More information about organ and tissue donation is available at neds.org.

Waltham Land Trust leads cleanup of the Lyman Estate grounds

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • COMMUNITY • MARCH 31, 2026



Volunteers gathered at the Lyman Estate on Sunday afternoon, March 29, spending several hours removing trash throughout the woods and along the brook. They discovered large items including mattresses, tires, furniture and appliances during the cleanup, highlighting the extent of illegal dumping in the area.

It was all part of a cleanup effort hosted by the Waltham Land Trust. The crews focused on the southern wooded areas along Beaver Brook.



Did you know? Free parking passes

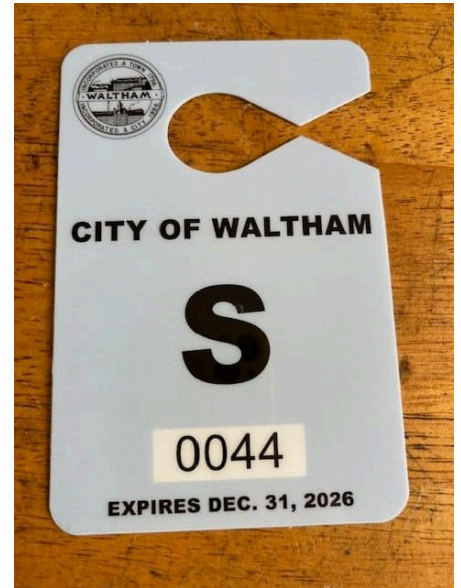
BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • MARCH 31, 2026



Waltham residents aged 62 and older can purchase a \$5 yearly parking pass, allowing free parking in municipal lots for up to 12 hours. Valid until December 31, passes are available at the [Waltham Senior Center on Aging at 488 Main Street](#) Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., by showing a driver's license and vehicle registration.

Just hang it above your rear-view mirror and you're good to go — or stay!

Editor's note: We hope you enjoy The Waltham Times' "Did you know?" series. If you want to share tips about useful resources around town, please email news@walthamtimes.org.



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Waltham Museum to spotlight legacy of Camp Cedar Hill

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • COMMUNITY • MARCH 31, 2026



Annual Massachusetts Girl Scout meeting in 1928 at Great Hall, Cedar Hill, Waltham.

Perched on 75 acres of rolling lawn and woods, Camp Cedar Hill is one of Waltham’s most beloved landmarks. The property climbs from Beaver Street, loops around the Bentley University campus and spills toward Forest Street. Each summer, Girl Scouts from across Massachusetts crowd into its vintage halls, clamber through its ropes courses, scale an alpine climbing tower and fill the hillside with girl energy.

The story of how this treasured camp came to be will come to life at the Waltham Museum next month. Francine Edwards, co-founder of the Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill, will present “Cedar Hill: Cornelia Warren’s Gift to the Girl Scouts” on Sunday, April 12, at 1:30 p.m. The free program

will explore how philanthropist Warren's 1923 bequest of land blossomed into a thriving summer camp and the headquarters of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts.

Once home to Warren's mansion, a working dairy farm and an elaborate arborvitae maze, the land was transformed into a Girl Scout haven through the vision of Helen Osborne Storrow. It is one of the oldest Girl Scout camps in the United States and hosted the first International Girl Scout meeting with Juliette Gordon Low, the famed founder of the Girl Scouts.

Edwards, a longtime museum volunteer with a deep love for Girl Scout history, will share stories and artifacts tracing the camp's 100-year journey.

The program will be held at the Waltham Museum, 25 Lexington St. A tour and refreshments will follow. Seating is limited; to reserve a spot, email info@walthammuseum.org or call 781-893-9020. Parking is available in the public garage across the street.

The event is supported in part by a grant from the Waltham Cultural Council, funded by the Mass Cultural Council.

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Author



JUNE KINOSHITA

A Waltham resident since 2003, June has been a writer and editor for Scientific American, Science, The New York Times Magazine, among others. She co-founded the Alzheimer Research Forum and N-of-One. She recently retired from a 13-year career as a leader at the FSHD Society, a rare disease patient advocacy organization.

Waltham 5Ks put fundraisers in motion

BY STEVE MILMORE • SPORTS & RECREATION • MARCH 31, 2026



Spring is here and Waltham residents are invited to lace up their running (and walking) shoes and take part in upcoming 5K races for charity.

Whether running, jogging or walking, everyone is welcome.

Experience firsthand how a few miles can make a lasting difference, both personally and for the broader Waltham community.

[Shifters 5K](#) on April 4, at 10:15 a.m. to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Race will start and finish at Waverley Oaks Athletic Club, 425 Waverly Oaks Road.

[Strides for Education 5K](#) on May 3, at 12 p.m. to benefit the Waltham Education and Beyond Foundation. Race will start and finish on the Moody Street Bridge.

[Flight 5K](#) on May 9, at 10:15 a.m. to benefit the Waltham Boys & Girls Club. Race will start and finish at The Mighty Squirrel, 411 Waverley Oaks Road.

[Boston Bone and Joint Institute 5K](#) on May 16, at 10 a.m. to benefit the BBJI Research Foundation. Race will start and finish at the BBJI office, 71 Border Road.

[Fitzy 5K Fun Run/Walk](#) on May 28, at 6 p.m. to benefit Fitzgerald Elementary School. Race will start and finish at Fitzgerald Middle School, 138 Beal Road.

[Mission MetroWest 5K](#) on May 31, at 10 a.m. to benefit the Community Day Center of Waltham. Race will start and finish at Prospect Hill Park, 314 Totten Pond Road.



STEVE MILMORE

Steve Milmore has more than 35 years experience in corporate communications and public relations. He started his career as copy editor for Computerworld magazine and has held writing and management positions at leading high tech companies including Oracle, IBM, and Dun & Bradstreet. Steve is a long-time resident of Waltham.

Waltham incident sparks lawsuit against DCF

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • MARCH 31, 2026



Josh Sabey and Sarah Perkins had their two sons removed in the middle of the night from their Waltham apartment in July 2022, following a July 13 trip to the emergency room for their infant son.

According to court documents and news reports from that time, emergency room clinicians discovered a fracture that they suspected could have been caused by abuse and alerted DCF.

DCF responded, questioning both parents and their 3-year-old son. DCF established a safety plan with the couple that allowed the children to remain in their parents' custody but required regular family check-ins with the agency.

However, Waltham police officers and social workers removed both children the same night their son was discharged from the hospital — despite the couple's compliance with all the requirements specified in DCF's safety plan.

Sabey and Perkins regained full custody of their sons four months later but said the removal caused lasting behavioral and psychological impacts on their children.

Now living in Idaho, Sabey and Perkins allege in their lawsuit that DCF violated their constitutional and parental rights during the overnight removal operation.

In a preliminary hearing, U.S. District Court Judge Patti Saris ruled that Katheryn Butterfield and Candice Gemski, both senior-level DCF employees, can be taken to court over the couple's claim of constitutional violation. All others named in the lawsuit, including Waltham police officers Anthony Scichilone, Richard Couture, Elias Makrigianis and Stefano Visco, were given qualified immunity. The lawsuit is expected to advance within the coming months.



CYD ABNET

Cyd Abnet is a Waltham native who recently graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Clark University. She began her journalism career with Clark's student newspaper where she covered topics from on-campus protests to competitive chess scandals. In her free time you can find Cyd enjoying Waltham's numerous natural wonders.

David Hart, 1937–2026, former Waltham firefighter

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • APRIL 5, 2026



David P. Hart, of Canaan, Maine, formerly of Waltham, died Monday, March 9, 2026 at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. He was 89.

David was born on Jan. 10, 1937 in Waltham, a son of the late Raymond and Adeline (Hebert) Hart. After graduating from Waltham High School, Dave served with the U.S. Army.

Until his retirement in 1992 he was a Waltham Firefighter for more than twenty-five years and had been a member of International Association of Firefighters, Local 866. He also worked part-time at Mass Hardware Store on High Street.

Dave was also a longtime member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lodge No. 953 where was a Past Exalted Ruler.

He leaves his wife, Bernadette J. (Pelletier) Hart; his children, Gary Hart (Paula) of Charleston, South Carolina, Janice Hart of Malden, Brenda Shannon (Robert) of Magnolia, Delaware and Joanne McNally (Michael) of Palmer; his step-children, Michelle Mehler (Joe) of Alfred, Maine,

Sandra Anderson of Williston, Florida, John Anderson of Marlborough, Eric Anderson of Waltham, Paula Cosgrove (Kenneth) of Waltham; his brothers, Thomas Hart (Rochelle) of Lewiston, Maine, Richard Hart (Evelyn) of Waltham, Paul Hart of Framingham and Patrick Hart (Elizabeth) of Waltham; his sisters-in-law, Louise Savoy of Canaan, Maine, Alice Hart of Waltham and Connie Hart of Auburn, Maine; his former wife, Corrine Hart of Waltham; many grandchildren, nieces, nephews and their families; and his faithful dog, Maverick, who was always by his side and whose companionship brought him daily happiness and comfort.

David was also a brother of late Beatrice Hart, Raymond Hart, Daniel Hart, Bartholomew Hart, John Hart, James Hart and Robert Hart.



David Hart, 1937–2026

John H. Nocera, 1959–2026

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • MARCH 31, 2026



John Nocera, 66, of Bedford, passed away surrounded by his entire family after a courageous battle with esophageal cancer. True to form, he was cracking jokes, calling plays, and making sure everyone else was okay right up until the end.

Born on July 27, 1959, in Waltham to Lou and Betty Nocera, John grew up in a town where being a “Nocera” meant something, and he made sure everyone knew it. He was one of seven: brothers Joe, Jim, Jeffery, Jason, and Jerry, and his sister Linda. If you met John for more than five minutes, you definitely heard about the brothers (and probably got quizzed on their names). He also shared a special bond with his stepmother, Anne Marie Nocera, whom he adored—especially for her incredible Italian cooking, particularly her famous stuffed artichokes. And no telling of John’s early life would be complete without mentioning Judy Middlebrook, a close family friend who was part of his life from the very beginning.



John H. Nocera, 1959–2026

John was a Waltham legend. Even from a young age, his athletic ability stood out—he was a little taller, a little faster, and already showing the determination that would define him. By his senior year at Waltham High School, he had become a true star, leading the state in yardage and touchdowns and helping carry his team to an 8–2 season and a #3 ranking in the state. He earned Suburban League All-Star and All-Scholastic honors and was later inducted into the Waltham High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He went on to proudly wear #32 as a running back for the UNH Wildcats—and if you didn’t know he was a Wildcat, don’t worry, he would tell you. Often. For decades. His UNH teammates weren’t just friends; they were brothers. He cherished those bonds deeply and made sure to bring everyone back together each year for a reunion at the Chateau—an event as lively, loyal, and loud as he was. More than his accolades, John was an exceptional teammate and an even better friend, always there for former teammates who were struggling—often quietly, but with a powerful presence and a heart full of love.

John was a proud third-generation owner of the Chateau Restaurants, a true Waltham institution and “family table” for generations. He poured his heart into the business and into every guest who walked through the doors. To John, no one was just a customer, everyone was part of the experience. “We’re full service guests,” he’d say, making sure every bite was, of course, “a happy bite.”

As a friend, John was one of a kind. He had what felt like a million friends. From Waltham to UNH to Bedford, where his “Empty Nesters” crew met every Wednesday night for over 15 years for dinner. He showed up. Always. In the best times and the hardest ones. He made people feel better just by being there, often with a joke, a hug, or a perfectly timed joke.

As a husband, he was completely devoted to his wife, Susan Nocera, his perfect match. They met when she was a waitress at the Chateau, and in a rare moment of patience, he waited until she left the job to ask her out. They married on November 11, 1988, and built a life full of love, laughter, and partnership. She was his filter (much needed at times), his person, and the love of his life. He proudly called her “wife,” and made sure everyone knew how lucky he was. She was by his side until his final moments, a love story that will live on forever.

To his son, Nick Nocera, he was a coach, a mentor, an OSU tailgating partner, and his biggest fan. He took immense pride in Nick’s accomplishments and was always there, celebrating the highs and steadying the lows. Whether it was on the field, in business, or in life, John was always in his corner offering advice, cracking a joke to lighten the moment, or reminding him, “If you’re not ahead, you’re behind.” He loved nothing more than watching Nick compete, talk through big decisions, or just spend time together—especially if it involved football, good food, and a little friendly debate. He believed in Nick wholeheartedly and made sure he knew it every single day.

To his daughter, Julina Franklin, his “sweet pea” or simply “pea”, he shared a bond that was truly one of a kind. From “fancy dinners” splitting mussels, to dancing in the car, to cooking Italian food side by side, their connection was deep, joyful, and constant. He adored her, was endlessly proud of her, and loved being close—literally—when she and her husband Josh moved three doors down. It was not uncommon for John to appear at their windows, ready to hang out.

As a father-in-law, John didn’t miss a beat. He loved Josh like a son (even taking his side during a high school breakup) and cherished their time together. His daughter-in-law, Melissa, lovingly dubbed “Mrs. Nocera” or “Lizzie”, matched his humor perfectly. He adored her and was deeply grateful for her love and support, especially during his illness.

“Uncle John” was a legend to his nieces and nephews, calling just to check in, making them laugh, and reminding them that “just because you’re not IN the band doesn’t mean you’re not IN the band.” They will miss all the little adventures he took them on.

But perhaps his favorite role of all was being “Papi.”

To his grandchildren, Maeve (3) and Wesley (1), he was pure magic. Maeve was his sidekick—his lobster-eating, egg-bite-sharing, preschool-drop-off partner. Wesley, his “dinosaur,” had him wrapped around his finger from day one. They were his joy, his comfort, his medicine. He shared his famous “Papi Juice” with them, taught them his sayings, and loved them beyond measure. Even in his final days, he was asking for them.

And the story of Papi doesn't end there. Both Melissa and Julina are expecting babies this summer, a baby boy and a baby girl. While he didn't get to meet them, there is no doubt they already have him wrapped around their fingers. They will grow up knowing all about their Papi—his voice, his sayings, his laughter, and the way he loved so big—and they will be loved by him just as fiercely as the rest.

John also loved his dogs deeply, especially Dewey, his soul dog, who lived a life of steak dinners and front porch hangs. And Vinny, who may have been feisty, but was loved just the same.

He leaves behind a legacy of humor, loyalty, family, and love that will live on in every story told, every phrase repeated, every lobster cracked, and every “Touchdown!” shouted.

Family and friends will honor and remember John's life by gathering for an Evening Wake in The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham on Wednesday, April 1st, from 4 to 8 p.m. and again at 9 a.m. on Thursday morning before leaving in procession to Saint Mary's Church, 133 School Street, Waltham where a Liturgical Blessing will be offered at 10 a.m. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Waltham High Gridiron Foundation, c/o 59 Rosewood Drive, Waltham, MA 02452.

John ‘Johnny’ Maselli, 1947–2026

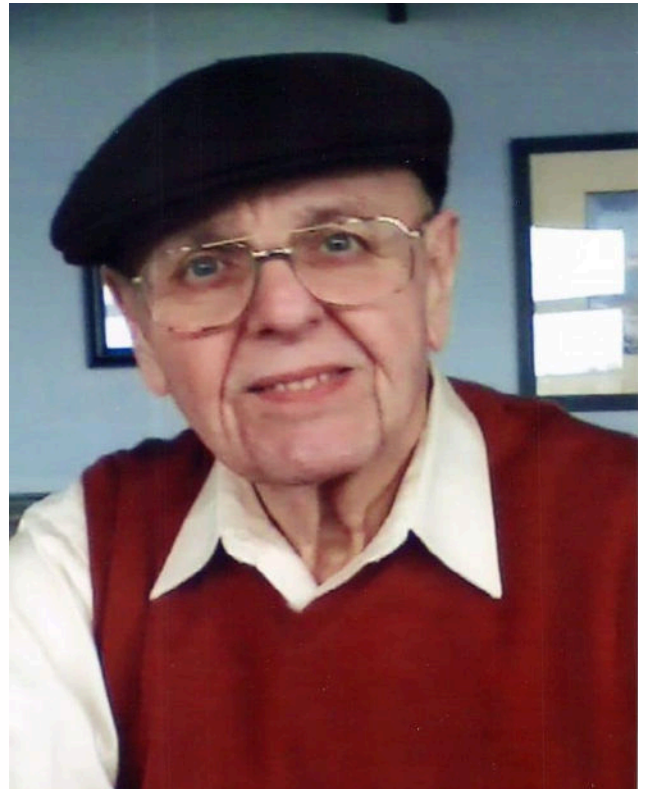
BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • MARCH 31, 2026



The world needs more people like Johnny Maselli. Kind to his core and quietly generous, Johnny always had a smile and a pleasant word to share. He was truly both a *gentle man* and a *gentleman*.

John Maselli was born on July 31, 1947, along with his twin sister, Joanne, to the late Vincent and Louise (Abbondanzio) Maselli. Raised in Waltham, he graduated from Waltham Vocational Trade High School. After graduation, he began his career as a draftsman but soon followed in his father’s footsteps, becoming a baker at Mazzola’s Bakery in Newton.

Known affectionately as “Johnny” to his family, friends, and all who met him, he later managed the day-to-day operations at Manero Catering. Never one to shy away from hard work, he also spent mornings working for more than 30 years at the Gulf Service Station on Main Street in Waltham. For the past two decades, Johnny was the friendly face at Costco—a cheerful greeter whose warmth made every customer’s day a little brighter. He continued working until he became ill just seven weeks ago.



John ‘Johnny’ Maselli, 1947–2026

Johnny died Saturday, March 28, 2026 in Lahey Medical Center in Burlington. He was 78.

Johnny loved good food and fine dining at some of the great establishments in Boston, often calling ahead to make sure baked stuffed lobster was on the menu. He took pride in his home and garden, always keeping both beautifully maintained and full of life.

After the passing of his parents, Johnny and his sister, Donna dedicated countless hours volunteering, including at the Pine Street Inn. His generosity, kindness, and joyful spirit touched everyone he met—and his memory will continue to do so.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his twin sister who died shortly after infancy, Joanne and his sister, Mary Rose Doucette.

He leaves his sister and best friend, Donna M. Maselli of Waltham and brother, Peter Maselli (Evelina) of Midwest City, Oklahoma; also survived by nieces and nephews and many cousins with whom he remained very close.

Family and friends will honor and remember Johnny's life by gathering for an Evening Wake in The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham on Monday, April 6th from 4 to 7 p.m. and again at 9 a.m. on Tuesday morning before leaving in procession to Saint Mary's Church, 133 School Street, Waltham where his funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Burial will follow in Newton Cemetery, Newton.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105.

Martin J. 'Marty' Walsh, 1932–2026

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • APRIL 2, 2026



Martin J. 'Marty' Walsh died at home on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 after an illness. He was 93.

Beloved husband of 62 years to Carol M. (Campbell) Walsh. Loving father of Michael J. Walsh of Auburndale, Jane E. Walsh of Glendale, California and Colleen M. Walsh and her partner, Jeff Neal of Cambridge; Brother of James Walsh and Mary Oman and the late Elizabeth Driscoll and William Walsh; also survived by nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor and remember Marty's life by gathering for an Evening Wake in The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Str., Waltham, on Tuesday, April 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. His funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday in Saint Bernard's Church, 1523 Washington St., West Newton at 10 a.m. Burial is private.



Martin J. 'Marty' Walsh, 1932–2026

Michael Christopher “Mikey” Murphy, 1996–2026

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • MARCH 31, 2026



Born on August 28, 1996, in Waltham, Mikey Murphy came into the world as the cherished son of Michael P. Murphy Jr. and Cynthia (Partridge) Murphy, and from the very beginning, he made it a brighter place.

Mikey had a gift that can't be taught: the ability to light up a room. His infectious smile, bright blue eyes, and irresistible sense of humor left a lasting impression on everyone lucky enough to know him. A true prankster at heart, he had a natural talent for finding the funny side of life and sharing it generously with those around him.

In his younger years, Mikey channeled his energy and competitive spirit into baseball, where he excelled as a pitcher, catcher, and shortstop. He was a devoted fan of Boston sports, especially his beloved Bruins, even having the unforgettable experience of spending time with the iconic Stanley Cup. The Bruins organization showed Mikey great kindness and support throughout the years, which meant so much to him and his family. In addition to sports, Mikey found deep joy in music, comedy, and the simple pleasure of a good episode of Family Guy. Even in his most difficult days, Mikey never lost his mischievous streak, and those who cared for him knew never to be too surprised when he found a way to get a laugh at their expense.

At the age of 14, Mikey faced a health challenge that left him partially paralyzed and forever changed the path of his life. Yet what never changed was who he was. He met those challenges with a quiet, remarkable strength and a resilience that inspired everyone around him. His spirit remained undiminished, warm, funny, and full of life.



Michael Christopher “Mikey” Murphy, 1996–2026

Mikey was surrounded by extraordinary love. His family shaped their lives around his care with a devotion that speaks volumes about the kind of person he was and the kind of love he inspired. Among those closest to him was his dear friend and caregiver, Lori Volpe, whose steadfast compassion, presence, and companionship were a constant source of comfort and joy.

He is the beloved grandson of the late Michael Murphy Sr. and the late Concetta (Quaranto) Murphy, and the late Richard D. Partridge Jr. and the late Gail (Phelan) Partridge.

He leaves behind his loving parents, Michael and Cynthia; his siblings, Mark DiLorenzo of Dudley, Stephanie DiLorenzo of Wilmington, Patrick Murphy of Florida, and Kristina Murphy of Wilmington; along with a wide circle of extended family and friends who will carry him in their hearts. He also leaves behind his cherished "Papa," Paul Nedza of Waltham, who held a special place in his life. Mikey was predeceased by his beloved grandmother, Connie Nedza, who was dearly loved and recently passed.

Mikey's family and friends will gather to celebrate his life on Thursday, April 2, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Mary Catherine Chapel at Brasco & Sons Memorial Chapels, 773 Moody Street, Waltham. A memorial service will follow in the chapel at 9:00 PM. Parking attendants will be on duty.

Raymond Panaggio, 1968–2026, ‘enjoyed the simple pleasures in life’

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • APRIL 3, 2026



Raymond Paul Panaggio, of Waltham, passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on March 4, 2026, at the Care Dimensions Hospice House in Lincoln after a period of illness. He was 57.

Born in Newton on Aug. 24, 1968, Ray was the beloved son of Anthony J. Panaggio, Jr. and Elizabeth A. (Panzera) Panaggio and a longtime resident of Newton, where he maintained many lifelong friendships.

Ray worked as an office manager in the landscaping industry and was employed with Ieraci Landscaping in Newton. He was known as a dependable and hardworking man who took pride in his work and in helping others.

Ray enjoyed the simple pleasures in life. He was an avid Boston sports fan, especially devoted to the Boston Bruins and a lifelong admirer of Bobby Orr. He also enjoyed horse racing and was a member of both the Newton Boys Club and the Newton Elks Club. Some of his happiest moments were spent with his nieces and nephews and with his close circle of friends, sharing stories, laughter, and the kind of loyalty that lasted a lifetime.

Family was central to Ray’s life. He is survived by his loving and devoted life partner, Michele Ellingwood of Newton; his son, Derek Ellingwood of Natick; his dear brothers, Anthony J. Panaggio III and John A. Panaggio of Newton; his sister-in-law, Barbara Panaggio of Hudson, and Elizabeth Orifice and her husband, Eric, of Needham.



Raymond Panaggio, 1968–2026

Ray is also survived by his nieces and nephews, Anthony Panaggio IV of Hudson, Alexandra Panaggio of Boston, and Alyssa and Eric Orifice, both of Needham, MA, as well as many extended family members and dear friends. Ray shared a special bond with his best friends Ricky, Massimo, and Aldo, who were an important part of his life.

Ray will be remembered for his loyalty, his quiet strength, and the friendships he cherished throughout his life. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visiting hours will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, from 4:00 to 8:00 PM in the Mary Catherine Chapel of Brasco & Sons Memorial Chapels, located at 773 Moody Street, Waltham.

A funeral service in celebration of Ray's life will take place on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 11:00 AM in the Mary Catherine Chapel. Interment will be held privately for the family at a later date.

Waltham home sales March 22–28, 2026

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • HOME SALES • MARCH 30, 2026



		Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
		03/23/2026	107 Clocktower Dr Unit 3302	\$790,000	2/2	1310 sq. ft.
		03/24/2026	20 Townsend St.	\$1,275,000	2/2.5	2900 sq. ft.
		03/25/2026	14 Piedmont Ave.	\$1,490,000	5/4.5	3816 sq. ft.
		03/26/2026	23 Hillcrest St.	\$1,110,000	4/4.5	2904 sq. ft.
		03/27/2026	47 Alder St. Unit 3	\$660,000	2/1.5	1248 sq. ft.

Calendar

April 7-15

TUE
7

Apr 7. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 🗓

Zoning Board of Appeals meeting

City of Waltham Government Center 119 School Street, Waltham, MA

The Zoning Board of Appeals generally meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room located on the ground level, or in the auditorium on the first floor, of the Arthur Clark Government Center at 119 School Street. The meeting schedule is determined by the volume of applications filed with the ZBA. [...]

WED
8

Apr 8. @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm 🗓

Parks-Recreation Board meeting

Waltham Community and Cultural Center 510 Moody Street, Waltham, MA

The Parks-Recreation Board meets monthly, excluding July and August. Public agenda and additional information can be found here.

Free

WED
8

Apr 8. @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

2026 MassEnergize Community Climate Leaders annual conference

Bentley University 175 Forest Street, Waltham, MA

A powerful one-day gathering bringing together 250+ passionate climate leaders from across Massachusetts. Get inspired, learn what's working in other communities, and connect with the people driving real climate impact. [...]

\$95

WED
8

Apr 8. @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Para las personas mayores: cómo utilizar los recursos de la MBTA

Stanley Senior Center 488 Main Street, Waltham, MA, United States

Representantes del Centro de Movilidad de la MBTA explicarán cómo utilizar los recursos de la MBTA para planificar su viaje, desplazarse de manera segura y qué características de accesibilidad tiene a su disposición. La presentación también abordará qué servicios están disponibles en caso de que su viaje se extienda fuera del área de servicio de [...]

WED
8

Apr 8. @ 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Weekday coffee social

Cafe On The Common Waltham

Looking to meet new people and make new friends? This event is for anyone looking to meet new people, make new friends, or just get out of the house. New in town? Perfect. Been here a while but want to explore the area with cool people? Also perfect. Whether you work remotely, have a flexible [...]

Free

WED
8

Apr 8. @ 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

For seniors, how to use MBTA resources

Stanley Senior Center 488 Main Street, Waltham, MA, United States

Representatives from the MBTA Mobility Center will present how to use MBTA resources to plan your trip, get around safely, and what accessibility features are available to you. The presentation will also cover what services are available should your trip extend outside the MBTA service area. Following the presentation, presenters will stay to assist individuals [...]

WED
8

Apr 8. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Mill Talk: 29 Mill Villages – and More

Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation 154 Moody Street, Waltham, United States

Ashton, Forestdale, Peacedale, Cabotville, Hopedale, Uxbridge, Milville and Slatersville, of course. Along our New England rivers there are more than a hundred small factory villages. Following familiar patterns, they are [...]

Free

WED
8

Apr 8. @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 🗓 **School Committee meeting**

School Committee meeting

617 Lexington St 617 Lexington St, Waltham, MA

The School Committee typically meets twice per month (once each in July and August) on Wednesday evenings. Check the School Committee web site to confirm meeting dates and times. Unless [...]

THU
9

Apr 9. @ 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Local News Day meet-up with the Waltham Times

Shopper's Cafe 731 Moody St, Waltham, MA

Join The Waltham Times team on Thursday, April 9, as we celebrate Local News Day, a nationwide event recognizing the vital role of local newsrooms in delivering fact-based, accountable journalism to communities. We're [...]

THU
9

Apr 9. @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm 🗓 **Board of Library Trustees meeting**

Board of Library Trustees meeting

Waltham Public Library 735 Main St, Waltham, MA, United States

A Board of Library Trustees appointed by the mayor establishes Waltham Public Library policies, which are administered by the Library Director. The Trustees typically meet on the second Thursday of [...]

THU
9

Apr 9. @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Local News Day meet-up with the Waltham Times

Mighty Squirrel—Waltham 411 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham, MA

Join The Waltham Times team on Thursday, April 9, as we celebrate Local News Day, a nationwide event recognizing the vital role of local newsrooms in delivering fact-based, accountable journalism to communities. We're [...]

THU
9

Apr 9. @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Needle & Nosh: Contemporary art felting workshop

Gore Place 52 Gore Street

Join us for an intimate evening of needle felting, creativity, and community. We will explore the mansion, taking inspiration from the colors and patterns of the space. Then we'll enjoy [...]

\$65

THU
9

Apr 9. @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Cellist Kett Lee In Concert

Waltham Public Library 735 Main St, Waltham, MA, United States

Join us for special evening with cellist Kett Lee! Kett is the cellist of the nationally acclaimed Boston String Ensemble and holds performance diplomas from The Boston Conservatory and Longy [...]

Free

THU
9

Apr 9. @ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm 🗓

Conservation Commission meeting

Zoom

The Conservation Commission typically meets twice each month on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Meetings are usually held remotely via Zoom and are open to the public. Visit the commission's web [...]

THU
9

Apr 9. @ 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

2nd Shift Concert: Willy Porter

Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation 154 Moody Street, Waltham, United States

Guitar-driven grit, soul, silence and muscle—at times electrifying, dynamic—Porter’s voice blends and fuses with his fret work. Some folks are lucky to find what they love to do at an [...]

\$33.85

FRI
10

Apr 10. @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm **Acme Theater presents ‘Unnecessary Farce’ by Paul Slade Smith**

Acme Theater presents ‘Unnecessary Farce’ by Paul Slade Smith

Acme Theater of Weston 377 North Avenue, Weston, MA

In a run-down motel, a high-stakes sting operation is about to go hilariously off the rails. In Room A, an embezzling mayor meets his accountant. In Room B, two rookie cops wait to catch it all on tape. But when the rooms get swapped, the money disappears, and a Scottish hit man enters the fray, [...]

\$25

SAT
11

Apr 11. @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Cherry Pies and Butterflies: Community pollinator festival

McDevitt Middle School 75 Church Street, Waltham, MA

Meadowscaping for Biodiversity (MS4B) will host a Cherry Pies and Butterflies community pollinator event. We offer hope along with cherry pie and apple cider. Activities will include: Speak with knowledgeable people from pollinator, climate change, and native flower organizations Learn why planting native flowers in your backyard fights climate change and restores biodiversity Stories about [...]

Free

SUN
12

Apr 12. @ 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Cornelia Warren’s Gift to the Girl Scouts

The Waltham Museum 25 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA

Tired of all the snow and shoveling! Come join us at our free 2026 Social Series supported in part by a grant from the Waltham Cultural Council, a local agency [...]

Free

SUN
12

Apr 12. @ 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Cedar Hill: Cornelia Warren’s gift to the Girl Scouts

The Waltham Museum 25 Lexington Street, Waltham, MA

Join us as we continue our Social Series with “Cedar Hill: Cornelia Warren’s gift to the Girl Scouts” with Francine Edwards, one of the co-founders of the Girl Scout Museum [...]

Free

MON
13

Apr 13. @ 12:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Sprout Benefit Auction for Waltham Fields Community Farm

Lyman Estate 185 Lyman Street, Waltham

Join us at Sprout to celebrate the joyous start of a new growing season at Waltham Fields Community Farm! Enjoy local bites from Maple + High and LifeLoveCheese and an open bar featuring sips from Mighty Squirrel & Wild Child. Place bids on an exciting silent auction catalog, enter for a chance to win our [...]

Free

MON
13

Apr 13. @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Historical Commission meeting

Zoom

The Waltham Historical Commission meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. To appear before the WHC or to submit correspondence [...]

MON
13

Apr 13. @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

‘The Condor Daughter’ East Coast premiere

West Newton Cinema 1296 Washington Street, Newton

In “The Condor Daughter” a young woman lives in the community of Totorani, high in the Bolivian Andes. Her adoptive mother has dutifully taught her the ancient ways of midwifery, including the tender Quechua songs that are believed to help safely usher newborns into the world. But while she loves, respects, and is expected to [...]

MON
13

Apr 13. @ 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Waltham City Council meeting

Waltham City Hall 610 Main St., Waltham, MA, United States

Waltham City Council normally meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, except during July and August. If a meeting falls on a Monday holiday, Council instead meets [...]

TUE
14

Apr 14. @ 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

National Grid — Customer assistance event

McDevitt Middle School 75 Church Street, Waltham, MA

Meet with assistance program experts and connect with the resources your family needs, all under one roof, all in one day. Our advocates will be on-site to help you explore options and determine your eligibility for assistance including the following: Discount rate Payment plans Budget plan Arrears management program (AMP) No appointment is needed, but bring [...]

Free

TUE
14

Apr 14. @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

3rd Annual Inclusion Fusion Concert

HARRY’S PUB, Bentley U. Student Center, 2nd Fl. 175 Forest Street, Waltham

Join us for our 3rd Annual Inclusion Fusion Concert—a wonderful event that showcases and celebrates the talents individuals with disabilities can have, and brings members of the community, college students, [...]

Free

WED
15

Apr 15. @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Neuropathy

Waltham YMCA 725 Lexington St, Waltham, MA

In this workshop physical therapists will educate on the sensation changes encompassed with the diagnosis of neuropathy. Therapists will discuss effects of balance, strength, and mobility as well as tips for functionality and avenues of care. This health workshop is a continuation of the Community Outreach Program spanning a variety of health diagnoses, presented by [...]

Free

WED
15

Apr 15. @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Neuropathy

Newton YMCA 276 Church St, Newton, MA

In this workshop physical therapists will educate on the sensation changes encompassed with the diagnosis of neuropathy. Therapists will discuss effects of balance, strength, and mobility as well as tips for functionality and avenues of care. This health workshop is a continuation of the Community Outreach Program spanning a variety of health diagnoses, presented by [...]

Free

WED
15

Apr 15. @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Board of Health meeting

City of Waltham Government Center 119 School Street, Waltham, MA

The Board of Health meets monthly, year-round. Meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. Contact the Health Department to confirm each meeting and [...]

Happiness is being a volunteer!

BY NEWSROOM • AROUND TOWN • MARCH 31, 2026



Deb Herman at Cafe on the Common. Photo by Emily Szczypek.

Waltham resident Deb Herman enjoy a peaceful morning at Cafe on the Common, deciphering a 1935 letter she's digitizing for the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation. She said she loves this volunteer task, savoring the cadences of written English from the past. Herman is a tireless volunteer for organizations throughout the city, including the Waltham Times.



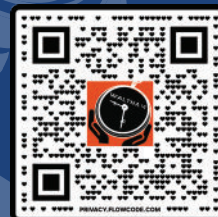
COLLEEN BRADLEY-MACARTHUR • APRIL 1, 2026 AT 2:34 PM

Ditto Sonja Deb is a treasure. Thank you for your dedication & time & expertise.

Reply



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